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of General Davis' classic work on military law. Such critics, however, often lose sight of the fact that no branch of the common law admits of less originality and breadth of treatment than that dealing with the various phases of military law. Although Colonel Dudley's field of work has narrow bounds, he has produced within them a remarkably clear, concise, and accurate statement of the law; the book will surely find its place upon the shelves of many lawyers as well as of many soldiers as a convenient manual for instant information upon subjects within its scope.

J. J. R.

**FEDERAL USURPATION.** By Franklin Pierce. New York: D. Appleton and Company. 1908. pp. xx, 437. 8vo.

Mr. Franklin Pierce of the New York Bar properly describes his "Federal Usurpation" as "a plea for the sacredness of the Constitution." Mr. Pierce's idea is not that the Constitution, framed one hundred and twenty years ago, is adequate for our existing political needs. On the contrary, he believes that its system of checks and balances adopted from distrust of the people prevents the beneficent expression of popular will in legislative and executive action, and should be radically modified by amendments to the Constitution. But in the idea championed by President Roosevelt and Secretary Root, that the power of the central government should be quietly and unobservedly increased "through judicial interpretation and construction of law," he sees the gravest danger. The book is mainly devoted to pointing out specific instances of unwarranted assumptions of power by different branches of the government, as against each other and against the states. The author suggests constitutional changes to lessen the temptation to usurpation, the chief of which is the facilitation of amendment so that the Constitution could be remodelled to suit the changed condition of the Republic.

Mr. Pierce writes in a clear, direct fashion, with an earnest detachment of view which highly commends his work to the student of public affairs rather than to the "politician." It is to be regretted that he does not seem to accord to sound judicial interpretation — along with popular agitation — the place which it must necessarily occupy in the development of a written constitution; and that he is hasty in his views of some troublesome subjects, as, for example, trusts, of which he would have the states "make short work." A. A. B.

**THE LAWS OF ENGLAND.** By the Right Honorable the Earl of Halsbury, Vol. I. London: Butterworth and Company. Philadelphia: Cromarty Law Book Company. 1907. pp. ccxviii, 647 (68). 8vo.

**THE JOURNAL OF DEBATES IN THE CONVENTION WHICH FRAMED THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES, 1787,** as recorded by James Madison. Edited by Gaillard Hunt. In two volumes. New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1908. pp. xvii, 392; vi, 461. 8vo.

**A TREATISE ON THE INCORPORATION AND ORGANIZATION OF CORPORATIONS.** By Thomas Gould Frost. Third Edition. Boston: Little, Brown and Company. 1908. pp. xv, 909. 8vo.

**THE CORPORATION MANUAL.** Edited by John S. Parker. Fifteenth Annual Edition, 1907-1908. New York: Corporation Manual Company. 1908. pp. xiii, 1816. 8vo.

**REPORT OF THE THIRTIETH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION.** Held at Portland, Maine, August 26, 27 and 28, 1907. Baltimore: The Lord Baltimore Press. 1907. pp. 1266. 8vo.

**DIE GESICHTE DES ENGLISCHEN PFANDRECHTS.** By Harold Dexter Hazeltine. Breslau: M. & H. Marcus. 1907. pp. xxviii, 372. 8vo.

**FUNERALI.** By Mario Ricca-Barberis. Milan: Società Editrice Libreria. 1906. pp. xxiii, 204. 8vo.

**TRUE STORIES OF CRIME.** By Arthur Train. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. 1908. pp. vii, 406. 8vo.